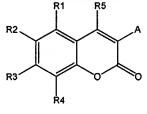
Listing of Claims:

1.-10. (Cancelled)

11. (Previously Presented) An *in vitro* method for assessing the ability of a compound to inhibit VEGF production in a cell from a tumor of a patient in need of treatment, comprising the steps of:

(a) contacting said cell with said compound of the formula I



(I)

wherein:

A is a four to seven membered heterocyclic ring, aromatic or non-aromatic, containing one or more nitrogen, oxygen or sulfur atoms in one or more heterocyclic rings and optionally substituted on the carbon atoms with halogens, alkyls which may be optionally substituted by halogen, amino, hydroxy or cyano groups, aryls, an aromatic or non-aromatic 5- or 6-membered heterocyclic ring containing at least one atom of oxygen, sulfur or nitrogen, hydroxy, amino, monoalkylamino, monoarylamino, bisalkylamino, bisarylamino, (alkyl)(aryl)amino, carbonylamino, alkyl(carbonyl)amino, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano groups or, on the nitrogen atoms, with alkyl, aryl, arylalkyl groups or with oxygen atoms to form N-oxides; said four to seven membered heterocyclic ring being optionally fused to one or two aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl groups, in their turn optionally substituted with amino, C_1-C_8 monoalkylamino, monoarylamino, C_1-C_8 bisalkylamino, aryloxy, halogens, alkyl, hydroxy, alkoxycarbonyl, carboxy, cyano groups; said aryl, heteroaryl or cycloalkyl groups being optionally partially saturated or unsaturated, respectively;

R1-R4 are independently selected from hydrogen, C_1-C_{20} alkyl optionally interrupted by one or more heteroatoms, hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy optionally substituted with hydroxyl, amino, thio, cyano, carboxy, carboxylic esters, or amides, C_1-C_8 haloalkoxy, phenoxy, aralkoxy, C_1-C_8 acyloxy, amino, C_1-C_8 monoalkylamino, C_1-C_8 bisalkylamino, C_1-C_8 acylamino, C_1-C_8 alkylsulfonylamino, aroylamino, halogen, nitro, cyano, trifluoromethyl, carboxy, C_1-C_3 alkoxycarbonyl, a $R_aR_bN(CH_2)_nC(=O)$- group where R_a and R_b are independently hydrogen, C_1-C_3 alkyl or R_a and R_b together with the nitrogen atom they are linked to form a pyrrolidino, piperidino, piperazino or morpholino ring and n = 0 or an integer 2 to 4, sulfonyl, mercapto, C_1-C_4 alkylthio, C_1-C_4 alkylsulfonyl, C_1-C_4 alkylsulfinyl, aminosulfonyl, C_1-C_3 alkylaminosulfonyl, a group $CH_2NR_aR_b$, or, taken together with the atoms to which they are attached, R1 and R2 or R2 and R3, or R3 and R4 form an additional aromatic or heteroaromatic ring;

R5 is hydrogen, C_1-C_4 alkyl, C_7-C_{10} aralkyl,

or a pharmaceutically acceptable salt, solvate, amide, ester, N-oxide, chemically protected form, and prodrug thereof; and

(b) determining whether VEGF production is inhibited.

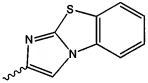
12.-14. (Cancelled)

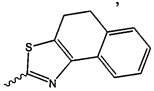
15. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein the heterocyclic ring A of said compound is selected from pyrrolyl, furanyl, thiophenyl, pyrazolyl, thiazolyl, indolyl, oxazolyl, imidazolyl, isothiazolyl, isoxazolyl, 1,2,3-triazolyl, 1,2,4-triazolyl, 1,2,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-oxadiazolyl, 1,2,5-thiadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, tetrazolyl, pyrimidinyl, pyridazinyle, pyrazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, benzofuranyl, indazolyl, carbazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzotriazolyl, quinolinyl, isoquinolinyl, cinnolinyl, quinoxalinyl, quinazolinyl, phthalazinyl, 1,2,3-triazinyl, 1,2,4-triazinyl, 1,3,5-triazinyl, purinyl, pteridinyl, benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl, 4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-d]thiazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl.

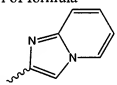
16. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 15 wherein A is selected from thiazolyl, 1,3,4-oxadiazolyl, 1,3,4-thiadiazolyl, benzothiazolyl, benzimidazolyl, benzoxazolyl, benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazolyl, 4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-d]thiazolyl, imidazo[1,2-a]pyridinyl.

17. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 16 wherein A is selected from thiazolyl, wherein the thiazole ring is connected to the 3-position of the coumarin ring through the 2-, 4- or 5-position.

18. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein A is a 2-thiazolyl, 4-thiazolyl or 5-thiazolyl residue, 1,3,4-oxadiazol-2-yl, 1,3,4-thiadiazol-2-yl, benzothiazol-2-yl, benzimidazol-2-yl, benzoxazol-2-yl,

benzo[d]imidazo[2,1-b]thiazol-2-yl of formula  ,

4,5-dihydro-naphtho[1,2-d]thiazole-2-yl of formula 

imidazo[1,2-a]pyridine-2-yl of formula  .

19. (Previously Presented) The method according to any one of claims 11, 15, 16, 17 or 18 wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 are hydroxy, C_1-C_8 alkoxy, amino, C_1-C_8 monoalkylamino, C_1-C_8 bisalkylamino.

20. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 19 wherein R1, R2, R3, and R4 are hydroxy or diethylamino.

21. (Previously Presented) The method according to claim 11 wherein said compound is 3-[4-phenylthiazol-2-yl]-7-(N,N-diethylamino)-chromen-2-one.